

SPRING HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Member of the United North Side Ministry  
Rev. John R. Bucher      Mrs. Edna Brunner  
Pastor                      Organist  
Church - 321-1975      Robert Arbogast  
Home - 761-7611      Acolyte

Sunday April 30, 1972      9:30 A.M.      4th Sunday after Easter

PRELUDE "A Song of Service" . . . . . A. Boyd  
CALL TO CELEBRATION

M. O God, there is no way to escape you-no place to hide.  
C. If we ascend to the heights of joy, you are there before us. If we are plunged to the depths of despair, you are there to meet us.  
M. May your all-knowing, everywhere-present Spirit continue to search out our feelings and thoughts.  
C. Deliver us from that which may hurt or destroy us, and guide us along the paths of love and truth.

\*A SONG OF PRAISE - No. 15  
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

\*A PRAYER OF PETITION AND PRAISE  
\*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS No. 554

A WORD ABOUT OURSELVES: (unison)  
Gracious Father, we stand before you as condemned men, condemned by our thoughts, our words, our deeds. We are caught by pride that we cannot escape. We are trapped in our wholly selfish lives, unable to give, only able to take. We find ourselves protective of our own intolerance of others, and deaf to the anguished cries of need all about us. Undeservingly, we ask that you forgive and free us, through your Son, Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON No. 545  
. . . AND GOD'S ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A SONG OF NEED - No. 300  
"Rise Up, O Men of God!"

A WORD WHICH CHALLENGES  
Epistle - James 1:12-18  
Gospel - John 16:5-15  
\*GLORIA PATRI No. 511

A STATEMENT OF THE FAITH WE SHARE (front of hymnal)

A SHARING OF CONCERNS

A MESSAGE OF THE FAITH WE SHARE  
RESPONSE NO. 523

SERMON - "Not Needed: Bifocals, Blinders, or Binoculars"  
Text - Genesis 13:14

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S CHALLENGE  
BY SHARING THEIR TALENTS  
ANTHEM "Together Lovely"

BY SHARING THEIR GIFTS  
\*RESPONSE No. 537

BY SHARING THEIR PRAYERS  
\*SILENT PRAYER  
\*PASTORAL PRAYER  
\*LORD'S PRAYER  
\*SURSUM CORDA No. 552  
\*BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

\*A SONG TO GO WITH - No. 375  
"Lead On, O King Eternal"

POSTLUDE "Ceremonial March . . . . . M. Dillon  
(\*congregation standing)

We welcome Lay-minister Ralph C. Link as our guest speaker this morning. Mr Link, a son of St. Paul's Church, is now a student for the ministry at Lancaster.

Monday May 1st-7:30 P.M.  
Planning meeting at the church. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday May 3rd - 6:30 P.M. Spring Dinner (smorgasbord) at the First U.P. Church Union Avenue. A Singing Minister will be in charge of the program. Reservation \$2.00 if planning to attend see Wilma Lersch.

It will soon be time for Women's Fellowship to turn in the offering of the Least Coin. This is a world wide project for mission work. Thousands of women join their sisters in Christ in praying for one another as they set aside a "least coin" each month. (For us 12 pennies) Any woman wishing to join in this project can contribute twelve cents to Wilma Lersch sometime in May.

Any member interested in purchasing the manse may submit sealed bid to Mr. Henry Pfeifer or Mr. George Yetter.

Friday May 5th-Women's Fellowship meeting 8 P.M.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Member of the United North Side Ministry  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

John R. Bucher, Pastor  
Paul Aloyi, Lay Minister  
Ralph C. Link, Lay Minister  
Esther W. Herwig, Organist and Director

4th Sunday after Easter April 30, 1972

ORGAN PRELUDES

a) "Inspiration" by Lemare

b) "Intermezzo" by Guilmant

MEDITATION - "Savior Like a Shepherd"

\* SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT

\* INTROIT for the 4th Sunday after Easter

M. O sing unto the Lord a new song:

C. For he hath done marvellous things.

M. The Lord hath made known his salvation.

C. His righteousness hath he openly showed  
in the sight of the heathen.

\* GLORIA PATRI

\* COLLECT for the 4th Sunday after Easter

HYMN #15 - "Praise Thou the Lord" (1-3)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Epistle - James 1:12-18

Gospel - John 16:5-15

\* DOXOLOGY

\* STATEMENT OF FAITH

(Inside the front cover of your hymnal)

ANTHEM - "My Music Is My Prayer" by Mueller

SILENT PRAYER and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - "Galilee" by Mathews

OFFERING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* HYMN #178 - "O for a Closer Walk with God"

SERMON - "Not Needed: Bifocals, Blinders,  
or Binoculars" Text: Genesis 13:14b

SERMON PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

\* HYMN #267 - "My Hope Is Built"

\* BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE - "Recessional" by Jefferies

(\* - congregation standing)

Our altar flowers have been placed in memory  
of Miss Clara E. Willome by the  
Schoeneweiss family.

We welcome the return of Mr. Ralph C. Link,  
Lay Minister and student for the ministry  
at Lancaster Theological Seminary, as our  
guest speaker this morning.

There will be a brief meeting of the Finance  
Committee following the service this morning.

TUESDAY MAY 2nd

3:30 P.M. Final meeting of the Children's  
Craft Program at St. Paul's Church.

WEDNESDAY MAY 3rd

6:30 P.M. Our ladies are invited to a  
dinner at the First United Presbyterian  
Church of Allegheny. Your reservation  
(\$2.00) must be given today to Mrs.  
Helen Hertler.

FRIDAY MAY 5th

7:30 P.M. Church School Board meeting.

SUNDAY MAY 7th

We will ask this year's graduates to take  
part in the service next Sunday morning.

THURSDAY MAY 11th - ASCENSION DAY

6:15 P.M. Covered Dish Dinner and get-  
together for the families and friends of  
St. Paul's Church, sponsored by our  
Sunday school. When you receive your  
letter this week, please mark the number  
coming and circle the food you would like  
to bring as your share of our supper.  
Mail or bring it to the church by next  
Sunday. A hymn sing and program are  
being planned for this "final fling".

14 GEP. WE KEM

I

Ab. Sair, Lot Gray. fr. Egypt. too many poss and cattle. Must split. Lot go left, Ab rt. vice ver

Lot look fertile irrigated Jord valley and took ~~Ab~~  
Ab settle Canaan Lot Sodom

Lift up <sup>your</sup> eyes and look from <sup>the</sup> place where you are, northward, southward, eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.

Today stand on site in short time wars will cease (Spring church just stand on site)  
Ever onward thrust of prog has snatch like giant hand ~~God~~ <sup>God</sup> could be saying, Lift up eyes ~~from~~ and look to

Need not apply only this cong. but all regardless ch or denom (Illustration primary teacher)

Sometime too close to situation cannot see proper perspective. Forest and trees apply here. Need bifocals here for looking close up

Ab no need bifocals knew job and knew what need done. Settle oak Mamre and bilt altar.

Patriarch knew lat thing and did wars. God this why church exist. why we here

When wars cease one sanctu no mean no further wars of God. May cease here but go on other place and other church. May join with other Christians

Those moving will find other Christians with whom to worship and Need not continue in just this place

(illustration practical religion)

Purpose any church instill relig beside wars. (illustration fundamental and religion)

II suppose few can recall horses and wagons as a lad remem horse and blinders. Ask mom and told keep ~~mind~~ eye on strait ahead.

Maybe we need blinders if like me. In strange city or town, sun rise north south west, set east north south. Few day and ok. It me all wrong not sun.

2

Ab no need blind, mind eye no distracted by site and sound around. Knew ~~task~~ settle family and pos session. Secure shelter for hired. no need for something to keep mind on task.

How easy simple we in ch to become distracted and dissuaded from primary task  
All wrapped up in meeting, suppers, discussions, luncheons and other trivia that only excess trap-pings of ch.

While involved in this overlook fundamental task try instill relig in cong and forget include Christ in many ch's and many programs.

This 72 and no want label of old fashion or fundy

May live in mod age and all convene that mod scient can invent. May seen things witnessed others make great, great, grandpa hair stand on end, but basic values still same and no go out style.

Wesley considered fundy, listen what written about him --- Illustration

Yes, to offer Christ is still answer to problems and troubles of mankind. If makes you or I some kind nut, then I am proud be nut.

More of explan Christ and less solutions of world problems. More taught about Christ and less polit

Problems need discussed by Christians, but preacher should be feeding flock food for soul. Tv and news paper coverage need not be covered in ch,

Preachers must dispense the medicine that will cure the ills of mankind and that medicine still is and always will be Jesus Christ. To say otherwise or do otherwise is to further push ch's closer toward fall to which heading.

III Instead looking off distance and predicting ch. thus and so at given time place, need be trying bring change world. Have customs and habits stale and musty need changed.

(Illustration cow path)



Illustration buttons coat sleeves)

Yet this custom. Custom breeds revolution.  
It is those turned off by our refusal to change the  
that revolt.

we say, "Can't do that, custom to do this way for  
years." Have lot of buttons left from yesterday.

Saddest commentary of American churches become  
gen. of edifice worship's Refuse to leave our  
beautiful buildings, and join other Christians where  
most expedient for all concerned.

I sat where you are must sadly admit not wanting  
join with other ch's. Went when here. otherwise  
no (Spring church explain.)

Involved in 2 ch change and get to join impossible

Trouble; stained glass window from Grand Snodgrass;  
Uncle Zeke and organ given by Cornstalk family  
Hymn books Aunt Maude or pews in memory Cousin Lila  
Or Grandpa Erasmus in cemetery in back and if church  
closes will not visit grave every Sunday.

Story in bible of other man looking at ~~city~~ surround  
dings and he cried. Must have looked north, south  
etc as Ab but wept at need.

valley  
If stand and look north, see; East st. and Alleg.  
Gen. rooms in need. Valley sick despairing needy.  
South; river ave and lower NS area filled with need  
East; Heinz and other factories, East Ohio etc.  
West; Federalst. if name yet, Manchester.

People in all directions need help and concern  
No need bifocals close up  
no need blinders to point our way  
no need binoculars to scan horizon.

For this we need people with love and concern to  
step forth. For this we need people willing to  
share fact of Love of God Jn 3:16  
Let me share him with you is what must be said.  
Any church says done work, stifling ministry of Js.  
Work of God and Christ never done needs commit people  
Illustration of fire; people on fire for Christ  
Not lukewarm bodies and minds but zest and zeal  
Illustration hymn credo perhaps needed

"Not Needed-Bifocals, Blinders, Binoculars"

VISOR (CHURCH ANNIV ETC.)  
GEP.

Text: Genesis 13:14b "Lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward, and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants for ever."

SARAH/HAN MEHEU

In Genesis we read of Abraham and his wife <sup>and</sup> Lot traveling from Egypt together. But since ~~they were both~~ Abraham and Lot were both wealthy men and had many possessions, the land was not big enough to take care of their needs. Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen became involved in disputes as to who had the grazing rights and who had the rights to the water, and thus Abraham went to Lot and made him a proposition. He said, "Lot I'll tell you what, we have no arguments between you and I, but our hired hands cannot seem to get along with each other. It seems as though we better ~~divide up~~ split up. I'll let you have whichever land you want and I'll take the rest. If you go ~~right~~ <sup>left</sup> I'll go ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup>, and if you go ~~right~~ <sup>left</sup> I'll go ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup>."

So Lot looked over the land and he saw that all of the Jordan plain was very fertile. It was irrigated and had all of the pasture and grazing ground that a man could want. So he told Abraham that he would take this ground.

Thus Abraham settled in Canaan and Lot settled in Sodom. Shortly thereafter God spoke to Abraham and he told him, "Lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants for ever." And Abraham did as the Lord had told him.

Today we stand on this site and we know that in a very short time, this house of worship will cease to exist. The ever onward movement of progress has reached out and has snatched this building as it has all others in its grasp. And so as we contemplate the demise of this structure, God could very well be saying to us today, "lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and





## II.

I suppose there are quite a few of us here who can recall having things delivered by a horse and wagon. I can recall that as a young lad there were still several horses and wagons around. I would look at the horses and I would try to figure what they had around their eyes that made it so you could not see their eyes. One day I asked my mother about this and she explained that these things were called blinders. They were put on the horse so that he would only be able to look ahead and not be distracted by things and people around him.

I sometimes think that we humans should ~~sometimes~~ wear blinders, especially if you have the same problem as me. When I go to a strange town or city, I always find that the sun rises in the west or the south and that it sets in the east or north. It is always a matter of a few days before I get straightened around and discover that the sun has not been wrong, but that I have been twisted around again in my directions.

Abraham did not need blinders as he surveyed the scene before him. His mind and his eyes were not distracted by the sights and the sounds around him. He knew that his immediate task was to settle his family where they were, and to secure shelter and housing for his herdsmen and for all of his livestock. He had no need for something to keep his mind on his task.

But how simple and easy it is for we in the church to become distracted and dissuaded from our primary task in our churches. We get all wrapped up and involved in meetings, and discussions and luncheons and dinners, and suppers and all of the other trivia that are really only excess trappings in any church. And while we are involved in all of this we overlook the fundamental task that involves us in trying to instill religion in the congregation, and that is we forget to include Christ in many of our churches and in ~~most~~<sup>many</sup> of our programs.

After all, this is 1972 and we do not want to be stuck with the label of being that old fashioned or even be considered fundamental.

Well my friends we may be living in a very new and exciting age. We may have all of the conveniences that modern science can invent. We may have seen things and witnessed others that our grandparents simply would not believe if they were to come back to earth today, but the basic fact remains that there are some values and some things that never go out of style.

John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist movement. He was and is considered to be a fundamentalist, but listen to what someone wrote about him, ----- (Illustration of Wesley).

Yes, "To offer Christ," is still the answer to the problems and the troubles of mankind. Now if this makes you or I some kind of a nut to say this or even to think it then I for one am proud to be a nut. We need more of the explanation of Christ in our churches and less of politics, and the ~~xxxx~~ solutions of the Middle East crisis and the answers to the Viet Nam problem. I do not say that these things are not important for the Christian and that they should ~~not~~ be discussed, but I am saying that what can be read in the newspaper and seen on television should be left to those who are experts in bringing this to the American public. We should leave the politics to political people and have the ministers dispense the medicine to cure the ills of all mankind and that remedy is still, and always will be Jesus Christ. To say otherwise or to do otherwise is to continue to push the churches closer to the fall toward which they have been heading.

MYSTIC BITE  
BYINBOONE

STYKE LOANE  
KACHONE

DATE RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
H Q NO 1  
6-10-72  
BAGBY C PIK



## III.

Instead of looking off into the distance somewhere and predicting that the church will be doing thus and so at a given time and place, we need to be trying to bring about change in the world. We have many customs and habits that have grown stale and musty over the years and need to be changed.

We have around this area, many streets that started out as a cattle ~~ix~~ path through a pasture, which became a footpath for men, then a wagon track, and then a road, and finally a city street. We speculate as to who could have laid out such a crooked meandering street, and we never face the fact that we are following the path of some dumb cow because of custom.

You men who are here this morning, look at your coat sleeves. Have you ever wondered why you have one, two three or maybe four buttons there? The answer given is that many centuries ago the monks in monasteries, and particularly the elderly monks had trouble keeping ~~their~~ the full sleeves of their robes out of their soup. So they sewed buttons on the sleeves and thus they solved their problem. And so we continue to wear buttons on our coat sleeves today which serve no purpose. Stupid isn't it?

Yet this is custom. It is custom that breeds revolution. It is those who are turned off by our refusal to change that revolt. We say, "We can't do that because it has been our custom to do things this way for years." ~~Maximalist~~ We have a lot of buttons left over from yesterday.

One of the saddest commentaries of the American church scene is that we have become a generation of edifice worshipers. This has come about because we refuse to leave our beautiful buildings and to join with other Christians where it would be most expedient for all concerned. I sat where you people are sitting this morning and I must

sadly admit that I too was a part of not wanting to join with other churches. I could never understand why we held joint church services with St. Pete's. If the service was held here I went, but if it was down there I didn't attend.

Now I am involved in a two church charge and getting those two churches to do something together jointly is almost impossible. But they are no different than any other congregations. The real problem is that stained glass window that Great, Great Grandmother Snodgrass had installed. And it is the organ that Uncle Zeke played and that was paid for mostly ~~from~~ by contributions from the Cornstalk family. Or it is the hymn books given in memory of Aunt Maude, or it is the pews or ~~xxxx~~ that cemetery out back where Granpa Erasmus is buried, and if we do away with this church I won't be able to visit his grave every Sunday. These are the things that hold us, our buildings, our organs, our windows, our pews and a million and one things, that prevent us not only from worshipping God, but from making churches be what they should be.

There is a story in the Bible of another man who looked upon the surroundings and because of what he saw he wept. The man of course was Jesus and he must have stood and looked north and south and east and west even as Abraham had done. But he wept because he realized the need that was present there in that city.

If we stand here and we look north we see the East Street valley stretching out and the Allegheny General Hospital. We know that in that building in almost every room lie people who have a need. In that valley are ~~xxxx~~ people who are lonely and sad and sick and despairing. If we look to the south we can see River Avenue and the lower North Side, and we realize that this area is filled with needy people. If we look to the East we are looking in the direction of the H.J. Heinz plant and the other factories and shops located along East Ohio Street. Each of these places of business ~~xxxxxx~~ have people working there with problems.

If we look to the west, we are looking toward Federal Street, (if it is still called that), and toward the Manchester district.

We know there are people living in that direction who have a need.

Everywhere we turn we can find people who need the love of God. For this we do not need bifocals to look at things close up. For this we do not need blinders to keep our mind and our sight pointed in one direction, and for this we do not need binoculars to scan the horizon to look for need. For this we need people who are willing to step forth and give to those in need the love of God. People who are willing to share the fact that God loved each of them so much he gave his only Son. Yes, people who are willing to say that Jesus Christ is my Lord and my Saviour and I want to share him with you. This is what is needed here and in all areas of our nation and our world.

Any one in any church in any area who can state that all has been done that can be done is not telling the truth. Show me a congregation that thinks its task has been completed and I will show you a conceited complacent church that is stifling the ministry of Jesus Christ. The work for God and for Christ is never done. It goes on endlessly. But it needs committed people. It needs people who are unafraid to stand-up and to speak-up for their Saviour.

(Illustration of fire in the church)

And this is what is the real need in any church. People who are on fire for the Lord. Not luke warm minds and bodies. But people full of the zeal and zest that moves people and is contagious to others.

(Close with hymn The Voice Of God Is Calling).

These are the words of one of the hymns found in our hymnbook hymnals.

I think that were we to adopt a credo for any church it should be,

"Speak O God, and behold, we answer command and we obey."



Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.